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(NE)

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 021565-060

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Waterhouse et al

Serial No.: 09/287,632

Filed: April 7, 1999

For: METHODS AND MEANS FOR
OBTAINING MODIFIED
PHENOTYPES

Group art unit: 1635

Examiner: K. LACOURCIERE

REPLY AND AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington D.C., 20231

Sir:

In complete response to the Official Action mailed October 3, 2000, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A method for reducing the phenotypic expression of a nucleic acid of interest, which is normally capable of being expressed in a eucaryotic cell, comprising the step of introducing a chimeric DNA comprising the following operably linked parts:
 - a) a promoter, operative in said eucaryotic cell;
 - b) a DNA region, which when transcribed, yields an RNA molecule comprising an RNA region capable of forming an artificial hairpin RNA structure, wherein one of the annealing RNA sequences of the hairpin RNA structure comprises a sequence, essentially similar to a part of at least 10 consecutive nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid of interest, and wherein the second of said annealing RNA sequences comprises a sequence essentially similar to part of at least 10 consecutive nucleotides of the complement of at least part of said nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid of interest; and optionally a DNA region involved in transcription termination and polyadenylation.